SOUTHERN CROSS

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September-October 1953



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being greeted at a reception in their honor following the Commissioning Service

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CROSS THE SOUTHERN

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CONTENTEDNESS

Jeremy Taylor

God hath appointed one remedy for all the evils in the world, and that is a contented spirit. A wise man is placed in the variety of chances, like the nave or centre of a wheel in the midst of all the circumvolutions and changes of posture, without violence or change, save that it turns gently in compliance with its changed parts, and is indifferent which part is up and which is down.

God is the master of the scenes; we must not choose what part we shall act.

We ourselves make our fortunes good or bad; and when God lets loose a tyrant upon us, or a sickness, or scorn, or a lessened fortune, if we fear to die, or know not to be patient, or are proud or covetous, then the

calamity sits heavy on us.

If thou fallest from thy employment in public take sanctuary in an honest retirement. If thou are out of favour with thy prince, secure the favour of the King of kings, and then there is no harm come to thee. When the north wind blows hard and it rains sadly, none but fools sit down in it and cry. When a storm of a sad mischance beats upon our spirits, turn it into some advantage by observing where it can serve another end, either of religion or prudence, of more safety, or less envy. If it does any good to our souls, it hath made more than sufficient recompense.

There is no man hath blessings enough in present possessions to outweigh the evils of a great affliction. Am I fallen into the hands of publicans and sequestrators, and they have taken all from me; what now? Let me look about me. They have left me the sun and moon, fire and water, a loving wife, and many friends to pity me, and I can still discourse; and, unless I list, they have not taken away my merry countenance, and my cheerful spirit, and a good conscience; and they still have left me the providence of God, and all the promises of the gospel, and my religion, and my hopes of heaven, and my charity to them, too; and still I sleep and digest, I eat and drink, I read and meditate; I can walk in my neighbour's pleasant fields, and see the varieties of natural beauties, and delight in all that in which God delights—he that hath so many causes of joy, and so great, is very much in love with sorrow and peevishness who loses all these pleasures and chooses to sit upon his handful of thorns.

(continued on page 4)

We welcome Pastor and Mrs. Eden Nicholas who arrive for their first term as missionaries in British Guiana. Pastor and Mrs. Nicholas are talented and able workers who will contribute much to British Guiana.

INCH MISSICHAMIL VIVILLES

Pastor Nicholas was born in Springfield, Illinois, and is the son of a minister. He was educated in Springfield at the University of Illinois where he majored in Music (Voice), and at Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, Minn. Before entering the ministry he had attained success as a baritone soloist in radio and opera, and as a professional actor. While a student at the seminary, he organized, directed, and sang with the seminary choir which made several tours. After his graduation in 1951 he was pastor of Grace Lutheran Church at Deephaven, Minn. His hobbies are music, reading, and painting. His decision to come to British Guiana was greatly influenced by John Magalee who told him of this church's needs.

Mrs. Nicholas (Joan) is also an able musician, having studied at MacPhail College of Music in Minneapolis. Her professional experience includes piano, pipe organ (the playing of which is her favorite hobby), and choir directing. She has served as Dean of Girls at a church camp, and has had experience as a social worker's secretary. Much of her life has been spent in church work where she served in numerous capacities.

Pastor Nicholas has been assigned to West Coast Berbice and will live at Armadale.

FOR JOY

For each and every joyful thing, For twilight swallows on the wing, For all that nest and all that sing,—

For fountains cool that laugh and leap, For rivers running to the deep, For happy, care-forgetting sleep,—

For stars that pierce the sombre dark, For morn, awaking with the lark, For life new-stirring 'neath the bark,—

For sunshine and the blessed rain, For budding grove and blossomy lane, For the sweet silence of the plain,—

For bounty springing from the sod, For every step by beauty trod, — For each dear gift of joy, thank God!

- Florence Earle Coates

----- INLLIVIVIY

What the prophet Isaiah said of his generation is relevant today: "Lord, in trouble have they visited Thee; they poured out a prayer when Thy chastening was upon them." (Is. 26:16) Such an outburst can be called an "emergency religion." It is the kind which looks to God for help only when every earthly prop gives way, and man must face forces beyond his power.

The trouble with a man who discovers God only in an emergency is that he discovers so little. He decides that there must be a God, because he needs Him desperately; that He must be all-powerful and benevolent because only He can help now, if He only will.

But what if God does not choose to rescue? Does He cease to exist then? Is He no longer an omnipotent and benevolent God? Religion must have deeper roots than these to be of lasting value. God must be more than a glorified "superman" who gets a person out of impossible scrapes.

A constant trust in the work of Christ means that we have overcome the forces of darkness and sin. It means that God will grant us that greater peace of which our Lord spoke: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you. Not as the world giveth, give I unto you."(John 14:27)

It is a part of wisdom, then, that we enter God's house regularly to hear the Gospel of His Son, to partake of His Body and Blood in the Sacrament, and to bring our not-so urgent petitions to His throne daily. By so doing, we are building up a reservoir of strength against all of life's emergencies.

Pastor Edwin C. Sohn in A Mighty Fortress.

It may make a difference to all eternity whether we do right or wrong today.

- James Freeman Clarke

THE CELESTIAL SURGEON

If I have faltered more or less In my great task of happiness; If I have moved among my race And shown no shining morning face; If beams from happy human eyes Have moved me not; if morning skies, Books, and my food, and summer rain Knocked on my sullen heart in vain: -Lord, thy most pointed pleasure take And stab my spirit broad awake.

- Robert Louis Stevenson

EMUTIONAL" GOSPEL SONGS

The following is part of a message delivered by Dr. Paul E. Bishop, President of Synod of the Northwest, before the synod's annual convention. The thought expressed by him is one that the church in British Guiana might well heed:

"Visits to many congregations revealed a tendency to neglect the rich variety of hymns available in the Common Service Book in favor of a few well-known standbys and or in favor of so-called gospel songs flavored highly with human-centered emotionalism.

"Carried on interminably, this tendency will lead to shallow rather than deep faith, narrow rather than broad experience of the love of God.

'We have a liturgy historically acceptable, easily useable; we have access to more than 500 hymns and hymn-tunes, rich in truth and singable. Congregations are urged to make full use of the approved and proved helps to worship.

(continued from page 3)

There are many accidents which are esteemed great calamities, and yet we have reason enough to bear them well and unconcernedly; for they neither touch our bodies nor souls - our health and our virtue remain entire, our life and our reputation. It may be I am slighted, or I have received ill language; but my head aches not for it, neither hath it broke my thigh, nor taken away my virtue, unless I lose my charity or my patience. Inquire, therefore, what you are the worse, either in soul or in body, for what hath happened: for upon this very stock many evils will disappear, since the body and the soul make up the whole man.

It is but reasonable to bear that accident patiently which God sends, since impatience does but entangle us, like the fluttering of a bird in a net, but cannot at all ease our trouble, or prevent the accident; it must be run through, and it were better we compose ourselves to a patient than to a miserable suffering.

But, however, if you will not otherwise be cured, time at last will do it alone; and then consider, do you mean to mourn always, or but for a time? If always, you are miserable and foolish. If for a time, then why will you not apply those reasons to your grief at first with which you will cure it at: last? from

The Rule and Exercise of Holy Living-

BEL AIR

CAMPBELLVILLE. A 9:00 o'clock Sunday morning service has been established to supplement the traditional evening service. Attendance is increasing at both services. A showing of the film "Lifting India's Shadows" drew a crowd of 400 at the government school. Two regular cottage meetings have been started to instruct non-Christians. The young people's confirmation class has an enrollment of eighteen.

Luther League attendance has almost tripled within the last two months. An outing to the Botanical Gardens is planned.

BEL AIR. Eight members have been received by transfer and renewal. An adult class is being instructed. Church attendance shows marked improvement.

Luther League meets twice a week, once for games, and once for the regular meeting. Interest has been stimulated by dividing the League into three competitive teams. Points will be awarded for attendance at Church, and League; for winning new members; for offerings. The two losing teams will treat the winning team to an outing. An all-day picnic at Coconut Walk has been scheduled. The League is also finishing the construction of a Volley Ball court in back of the school. Average attendance has increased from 20 to 35.

LE RESSOUVENIR. A 7:00 o'clock morning service has been started to supplement the customary afternoon service. The afternoon service is being devoted to a study of "What A Church Member Should Know."

A six-day outdoor preaching mission is planned for early September.

Luther League has been divided into Junior and Senior groups. Average attendance in the Junior League is between 18 to 25, and 50 to 60 in the Senior League. The Pastor conducts a Bible study once a month, and gives an explanation of the Scripture reading at every meeting. Programs have been devoted to games, Bible quizzes, and discussions on Stewardship, and on Marriage. Twenty-five to thirty boys meet every afternoon for Volley Ball practice.

An all-day outing has been planned. The Leaguers will go into the Back Dam by boats in the morning, and the afternoon will be devoted to games, races, and Volley Ball. After dinner a huge campfire will be made with group singing and an inspirational talk by Pastor Hansen who will accompany the group as their guest.

Lutherans, who total over 68,500,000, constitute the largest Protestant communion in the world

VISITORS

Mr. Daniel Shook spent a fortnight in the Colony, during which time he visited outstanding points in our Lutheran Church. Mr. Shook, a member of the Young People's Bible Class of Holy Trinity, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, brought the greetings of that group to the Church in British Guiana. He had an opportunity to visit all the parishes, and was much interested in what he saw.

Early In August the Rev. Paul C. White, M.A., Ph. D., D.D., accompanied by his wife, included British Guiana in their tour of the Caribbean and South American fields of the Lutheran Church. Although their visit had to be shortened several days, due to the delayed arrival of the plane, they managed to visit all parishes. Dr. White is Vice-President of the Board of Education of the United Lutheran Church in America.

Lutheran Courts was also honored by the visit of His Excellency the Governor and Lady Savage during their stay in Berbice. The Governor met the officers and local pastors of the church. He was greatly interested in the historic aspects of Ebenezer Church, and in the history of the Lutheran Church in British Guiana.

The decision to tithe makes it unnecessary to worry constantly about how much one can spare.

BE STRONG!

Be strong!
We are not here to play — to dream, to drift.
We have hard work to do and loads to lift.
Shun not the struggle — face it; 'tis God's gift.

Be strong!
Say not the days are evil. Who's to blame?
And fold the hands and acquiese. — O shame!
Stand up, speak out, and bravely, in God's name.

Be strong!
It matters not how deep entrenched the wrong,
How hard the battle goes, the day how long;
Faint not — fight on! Tomor row comes the song.
— Maltbie D. Babcock

Professor Edgar J. Goodspeed, translator of the New Testment for "The Bible, An American Translation," felt that it would be clarifying and helpful if the sayings attributed to Jesus, which are scattered through the Gospels, could be brought together and arranged according to the subjects with which they deal. One of his compilations is printed below:

COMMANDMENT OF LOVE

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it. Thou shalt

love thy neighbor as thyself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Ye have heard that it hath been said. Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy.

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good. and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust,

For if ve love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so.

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

As the Father hath loved me, so have I

loved you: continue ye in my love.

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

CANJE AND LOWER BERBICE

BETSY GROUND, Mr. Harold Kowlesaar was installed as acting Catechist on July 19.

Women's League. Under the leadership of Miss Olyve Steaman, the book "What Every Church Member Should Know" is being Studied.

Day School. A garden has been added as a new pupil activity. Transfiguration School was host to St. Thomas School in a friendly game of cricket. Thirty-six pupils and all the teachers went on an educational tour to Skeldon. The school year closed with an average attendance of 177, an increase of 26 over last year.

Since its organization in 1816, the American Bible Society has distributed 435,792,985 volumes of scripture.

SANCTUARY

Let us put by some hour of every day For holy things!— whether it be when dawn Peers through the window pane, or when

the noon

Flames, like a burnished topaz, in the vault, Or when the thrush pours in the ear of eve Its plaintive monody; some, little hour Wherein to hold rapt converse with the soul, From sordidness and self a sanctuary, Swept by the winnowing of unseen wings, And touched by the White Light Ineffable! -Clinton Scollard

I love you for what you are, but I love you yet

more for what you are going to be.

I love you not so much for your realities as for your ideals. I pray for your desires that they may be great, rather than for your satisfactions, which may be so hazardously little. A satisfied flower is one whose petals are about to fall.

The most beautiful rose is one hardly more than a bud wherein the pangs and ecstacies of desire are working for larger and finer growth. Not always shall you be what you are now. You are going forward toward something great. I am on the way with you and therefore I love you.

- Carl Sandburg .

Sept.-Oct

SKELDON HIGH SCHOOL

The United Nations Correspondence Club has grown in membership, and now has friends in the United Kingdom, British West Indies, and the United States. It has

published its first bulletin.

The Dramatic Club is preparing a humorous play, "Papa Pepper's Bombshell", and scenes from Shakespeare's "As You Like It," for Speech night. The choir is practicing new choruses for this important event at which certificates and prizes will be distributed.

Some part of the Bible has been published in 1,059 languages and dialects.

WEST COAST BERBICE

Members of the women's leagues, and older girls of the sewing classes went on excursions to the Burma Rice Scheme. Busses chartered for the two outings were filled to standing capacity, with some members going by car or train. When the first group of 70 descended upon Burma, the management seemed quite surprised because they usually do not cater to groups larger than 20. However, three guides were quickly provided to show the groups through the factory. The management also offered the use of the schoolroom for the day, and showed the visitors every courtesy. When the second group of 50 or more arrived the next day, guides were ready and waiting for them.

When the group first began the tour, some of the excursionists were dismayed at the number of steps to be climbed, but this was soon forgotten as their interest grew in watching the demonstration. They were shown the combines cutting and gathering in the rice, the large-scale processing of the rice, the complete mechanical setup, and the way in which all parts of the rice plant are used so that nothing is wasted.

After the noon meal, games and rounders served as entertainment, and ice cream was prepared. Before leaving Burma, the group assembled in the schoolroom for devotions.

Both excursions proved to be fine educational, social, and inspirational experiences. The trip itself, to and from Burma, will be long remembered. Throats were not allowed to rest, and all along the route heads turned from work and popped out from windows as the singing of the excursionists reached the ears of villagers.

LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE

"Lutheran World Service is an aspect of sound Lutheran theology." In these words Bishops Hanns Lilie, President of Lutheran World Federation, summed up the significance of the Federation's Department of World Service. The Bishop pointed out that "it takes a lot of Christianity to think of the needs of people far away" and underlined the great achievements of the American and Scandinavian churches in helping churches in war-damaged countries and resettling refugees. As one example of what Lutheran World Service can achieve even now that the great post-war emergency is over, was quoted the work of the Department's representative in Syria, Mr. Christian Christiansen from Denmark, who, working among Arab refugees, has after some original reticence now through his work created such confidence that the Syrian government has asked him to take in hand the entire Arab relief work in the country. The work of Mr. Christiansen is backed by gifts of food, medicines, and clothing from the Lutheran churches of America, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.

TOO BUSY

Paul L. Dunbar

The Lord had a job for me,
But I had so much to do
I said, "You get somebody else —
Or wait till I get through."

I don't know how the Lord came out, He seemed to get along; But I felt kind of sneaking like, 'Cause I knew I'd done Him wrong.

One day I needed the Lord,
Needed Him right away —
And he never answered me at all,
But I could hear Him say
In my accusing heart,
"Mister, I've got too much to do.
You get somebody else —
Or wait till I get through."

Now, when the Lord has a job for me, I never try to shirk;
I drop whatever I have on hand,
And do the Lord's good work.

And my affairs can run along
Or wait till I get through,
For nobody else can do the work
That God's marked out for you.

(Mr. Dunbar is a noted Negro poet.)

LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION NEWS RELEASES

CANADA. About 1600 Lutheran children in out-of-the-way homes all over Canada, the northern part of the United States, and even in Eskimo settlements in Alaska are at present enrolled in "Lutheran Sunday School by Mail" an enterprise of the three Canadian regional synods of the United Lutheran Church in America.

AUSTRALIA. The foundation stone of what will be the United Evangelical Lutheran Church's first church in Melbourne has been laid.

SYRIA. A specialized children's clinic has been set up by the Lutheran World Federation, supplementing one run by the University of Damascus and serving the children of Arab refugees.

ETHIOPIA. A revival of considerable proportions is going on within the Evangelical church of Ethiopia. This spiritual growth is also being evidenced in plans for setting up a high school especially for the training of future teachers and ministers. Later, technical and agricultural training will be added. Almost all mission stations will have schools as well as a teachers' training establishment; also a Bible school; seminary; and a school for the blind in Addis Abbaba.

PHILIPPINES. A new Christian broadcasting station is sending Christian programs, sermons and lectures for seventeen hours a day in thirty-five languages or dialects. Christian missions are using modern techniques, and in spite of all obstacles the Christian faith is being spread.

CHINA. The Lutheran Church in China is now almost completely cut off from contacts with the rest of Lutheranism. In 1949 there were 130,000 Lutheran church members, and 200 Chinese Lutheran pastors. Christian missions and all foreign support are strictly forbidden.

HONG KONG. A Lutheran Missions Conference has recently been organized. This brings ten different missions from Europe and America together into one group.

JAPAN. One of the important means of making contacts are the Lutheran Hour Broadcasts from Hiroshima which are sponsored by the Augustana Lutheran Church.

Certain thoughts are prayers. There are moments when, whatever be the attitude of the body, the soul is on its knees.

- Victor Hugo.

Blessed are they who have the gift of making friends, for it is one of God's best gifts. It involves many things, but above all, the power of going out of one's self, and appreciating whatever is noble and loving in another.

- Thomas Hughes

LOWER CORENTYNE

CRABWOOD CREEK .Nativity Church and Sunday School rejoiced greatly when they heard the good news that at last they were to have a Catechist. An urgent community meeting was called, and a special welcome was prepared for the new Catechist, whose name they did not know then. On the arrival of Catechist Ramlochan and his family at six-thirty in the evening, there was a committee of women to welcome them and arrange their home. A special committee of men served curried mutton, roti, and rice. After the house arranging and dinner there was speech-making in the Sunday school room.

Nativity's Private Elementary School which is being organized has received thirty-one applications, all accompanied by en-

trance fees.

SKELDON. Lutherland looked quite important and beautiful when the electric plant granted by the home board was put into operation. It should prove a blessing to the parsonage, the congregation, the high school, and all the employees in the compound. An office of blessing was held with the Emmanuel congregation present or Sunday, July 5, when the lights were officially turned on. Arnold, the three-yea old son of Harry, the caretaker, turned the first switch that started the engine. Or Wednesday night a large group attending Luther League enjoyed the convenience of the new lights.

NO. 68 VILLAGE. This baby mission continues to grow. Three more person were recently baptized.

WHIM. Catechist Menzies is again helping out St. James congregation, following the resignation of Catechist Francis Muttoo.

When a bit of sunshine hits ye,
After passing of a cloud,
When a fit of laughter gits ye
And ye'r spine is feelin' proud,
Don't forget to up and fling it
At a soul that's feelin' blue,
For the minit that ye sling it
It's a boomerang to you.

- Capt. Jack Crawfor